

BCDC's Sediment and Beneficial Reuse Working Group members attended the January 6th 2023, virtual public meeting at 3 PM.

After welcoming and introducing attendees, the Beneficial Reuse Working Group began with a discussion of the purpose and responsibilities of the group itself. BCDC's Long-Range Planning Team Manager, Erik Buehmann identified the goals of the group and its subsequent members, including a consideration of whether the San Francisco Bay Plan should be updated to improve policies related to the beneficial reuse of sediment, an exploration of the regional needs for sediment reuse, examining challenges and opportunities, developing a common ground, and providing information and advice to the Commission.

Brenda Goeden, BCDC's Sediment Program Manager, then led a discussion of the status and trajectory of the Beneficial Reuse of Sediment for Wetlands Project (Project) funded by the EPA Wetlands Development Program and the Ocean Protection Council. The Project will address sediment and soil reuse, habitat restoration, and climate adaptation with an emphasis on vulnerable communities through collaboration with various partners and local Bay Area communities to create the necessary policies and strategies needed to advance wetland restoration. The grant timeline has shifted but progress is being made: a new position has been filled by Maya McInerney to support this the project. Contracting is underway for partners and facilitators.

Brenda then provided an overview of the San Francisco Bay Estuary sediment system, detailing its role as a critical resource for the region. The presentation then explored the difference between the LTMS Program and regional sediment management. The presentation continued with a brief discussion of terminology associated with soil and sediment in order to clearly communicate some of the essential differences in terms that are often used interchangeably and create a common understanding within the group going forward.

The meeting progressed to a discussion of the LTMS program and instances in which beneficial reuse of sediment is encouraged in both the McAttee-Petris Act and the San Francisco Bay Plan. Currently the policies focus on navigation dredging, but changes could be made to broaden existing policies to include beneficial sediment reuse, or new policies could be adopted to promote beneficial reuse specifically, and be more inclusive of other sectors, such as flood protection projects.

A public comment period was provided, and a discussion followed about innovations that could be pursued to increase beneficial reuse. Representatives from various agencies expressed a willingness to collaborate, find common ground, and share information about sediment reuse strategies. A more detailed work plan is to come. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled soon, with future meetings including presentations from experts in the field.

For more information, visit <https://bcdc.ca.gov/sabrwg/sabrMeetings.html> or contact Brenda Goeden at 415/352-3623 or via email at brenda.goeden@bcdc.ca.gov.